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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,805	12/16/2003	Jun Fujimoto	402919/SOEI	2858
23548	7590	10/25/2006	EXAMINER	
LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD 700 THIRTEENTH ST. NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3960			YOO, JASSON H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	

DATE MAILED: 10/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/735,805	Applicant(s) FUJIMOTO, JUN	
	Examiner Jasson Yoo	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/30/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/26/04, 3/30/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 11 claims "the ID card is provided with a deposit checking unit for checking an amount of a deposit of the participant". The specification discloses the deposit checking unit (70 in Fig. 1) is part of the ID card (20). The specification discloses in paragraph 64 (US Pub. 20040137977): "The ID card 20 is provided with a deposit checking unit 70 for checking the amount of deposit of the user. In the foregoing embodiment, the chips 28 are directly bet". It is not clear how the ID card with the deposit checking unit and the chips are used at the same time. The specification further states in paragraph 64 that "card games can be played in accordance with the checking results of the deposit checking unit 70 instead of the chips 28". Therefore the Examiner will interpret claim 11 as an independent claim, with the limitations of the card identification system and individual identification system as claimed in claims 1 and 10, wherein the ID card is used as a credit meter instead of the chips.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Soltys et al. (US 6,460,848).

1. A game management system for managing a game, which is played on a game table and employs a plurality of cards and a plurality of chips, the game management system (Fig. 1) comprising:

card identification information recording means for recording card identification information for identifying each of the plurality of cards (card verification 62 in Fig. 3), the card identification information recording means being provided with each of the plurality of cards (cols. 6:25-8:25);

chip identification information recording means for recording chip identification information for identifying each of the plurality of chips (58 in Fig. 3), the chip identification information recording means being provided with each of the plurality of chips (cols. 5:39-66, 6:25-42, 8:27-10:8);

first identification information detecting means for detecting the card identification information recorded on the card identification information recording means of each of the plurality of cards, the first identification information detecting means being provided with the game table (card verification system 62 detects the card identification information and records the information onto the CPU's 52 memory, col. 6:1-24, Fig. 3);

second identification information detecting means for detecting the chip identification information recorded on the chip identification information recording means of each of the plurality of chips, the second identification information detecting means being provided with the game table (Chip monitor system 58 detects the chip identification information and records the information onto the CPU's 52 memory, col. 6:1-24, Fig. 3);

individual identifying means for acquiring personal information for identifying a participant in the game, the individual identifying means being provided with the game table (col. 22:35-37); and

managing means for managing tracks and results of the game played on the game table in association with the personal information, which is acquired by the individual identifying means, based on the card identification information detected by the first identification information detecting means and the chip identification information detected by the second identification information detecting means (a software system 350 manages the tracking and the results of the game played on the game table, col. 12:34-55, Fig. 16).

2. The game management system according to claim 1, wherein the tracks of the game include information concerning the cards at a beginning of the game and movement histories of the cards during the game, and the results of the game include information concerning the cards left at an end of the game (The play tracking system detects each new card being played on the table and stores play information, col. 22:13-33)

3. The game management system according to claim 2, wherein the information on the cards at the beginning of the game includes kinds and a number of the cards remaining at the beginning of the game (Tracking system tracks cards on the play table in real-time, and thus tracks the cards at the beginning of the game, col. 22:10-33. Tracking system also identifies the rank and suit of the card, col. 22:21).

4. The game management system according to claim 2, wherein the information concerning the cards remaining at the end of the game includes kinds and a number of the cards remaining at the end of the game (Tracking system tracks cards on the play table in real-time, and thus tracks the cards at the end of the game, col. 22:10-33).

5. The game management system according to claim 1, wherein the tracks of the game include information concerning the chips bet at a beginning of the game and a movement history of each of the chips during the game, and the results of the game

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include information concerning the chips remaining at an end of the game (col. 11:10-12, 11:29-42, 17:9-18:44).

6. The game management system according to claim 5, wherein the information concerning the chips bet at the beginning of the game includes kinds and a number of the chips bet at the beginning of the game (col. 11:10-12, 11:29-42, 17:9-18:44).

7. The game management system according to claim 5, wherein the information concerning the chips remaining at the end of the game includes kinds and a number of the chips left at the end of the game (col. 11:10-12, 11:29-42, 17:9-18:44).

8. The game management system according to claim 1, wherein the results of the game include a total amount of remaining money at an end of the game (tracking system can identify each individual chip a player has left at the end of the game, col. 23:6-18).

9. The game management system according to claim 1, wherein the managing means detects fraud of the game, which is committed by the participant identified by the personal information, based on the tracks and the results associated with the personal information (cols. 11:50-12:20, 12:39-67, 16:39-48).

10. The game management system according to claim 1, wherein the individual identifying means comprises:

an ID card (col. 12:44-50) which records the personal information for identifying the participant in the game, the ID card being distributed to the participant identified by the personal information (ID card may include identifying information, such as name and address); and

readout means for acquiring the personal information by reading out from the ID card (a magnetic stripe is used to read the card's information such as name, address, and/or a unique serial number), the readout means being provided with the game table (col. 22:35-42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soltys et al. (US 6,460,848) in view of Raven et al. (US 5,429,361)

Soltys discloses a deposit checking unit (64 in Fig. 3) and inputting a bet on the table game based on the amount of the deposit checked (col. 10:9-17).

Soltys further discloses the ID is used to provide complimentary benefits for the players, by monitoring the player's activity (col. 22:44-49). However, Soltys does not specifically

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state the ID card is provided with a deposit checking unit for checking an amount of a deposit of the participant. However in an analogous art to player monitoring systems, Raven discloses an ID card that is provided with a deposit checking unit for checking an amount of a deposit of the participant (col. 10:38-11:62). The deposit checking unit allows the player to play the games without carrying large amount of game currency such as cash or chips in the correct denominations for each type of game the player wishes to play (col. 10:40-43). The deposit checking unit incorporated in the player's ID card also allows the casino to track the player's credit records using the ID card (col. 11:11-23). Therefore it would have been obvious to one in ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Soltys game management system, and incorporate Raven's deposit checking unit in order to provide convenience of the player and to track player's credit records using the ID card.

Conclusion

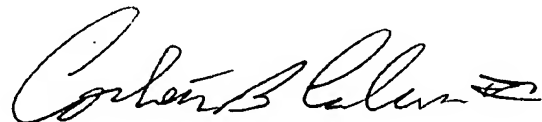
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olszewski Robert can be reached on (571)272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn", followed by a stylized flourish or checkmark.

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**